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EASTERN EUROPEAN INTELLIGENCER

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Warsaw Pact Chiefs-of-Staff Meeting in Berlin?

Warsaw Pact chiefs-of-staff, minus the Czechoslovaks and Rumanians, met in East Berlin on 17 May, possibly to discuss establishment of a permanent political committee, according to an Italian Embassy official in Sofia.

The US Mission in Berlin, however, has been unable to confirm that this meeting has been held. Rumors that the Pact was contemplating the formation of a permanent political committee similar to the North Atlantic Council have been carried by several Western news services in the past week.

In the absence of any supporting evidence, the reports may simply be garbled versions of reported discussions of new Pact command arrangements. The Mission in Berlin, on the other hand, does not rule out the possibility of a chiefs-of-staff meeting having been held and reminds us that the first collective meeting in Berlin of Brezhnev, Kosygin, and Podgorny in January which was not announced until after the meeting was over.

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Top Level Yugoslav Arrives in East Berlin

Jakov Blazevic, member of the presidium of the Yugoslav League of Communists central committee arrived in East Germany on 15 May.

Although the visit reportedly is in response to an invitation from the central committee of the SED, there was no previous announcement that it would take place. The Yugoslavs allegedly are there to study the problems of the new economic system and the development of socialist democracy in East Germany, but one may safely assume the recent events in Czechoslovakia will be touched upon.

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GRADING AND DECLASSIFICATION

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Slovak Party Central Committee Urges Prague to Purge Conservatives

On 20 May the central committee of the Slovak party clearly demanded that Prague--and Dubcek--purge conservatives from the party.

Meeting for the first time since being elected, the new Slovak central committee urged the new party leadership to disassociate itself energetically from those who failed in the past, and who are still not only members of the party but also of its highest organs."

The committee also condemned "efforts which seek to discredit the entire activity of the Communist Party in the eyes of the working people," thus showing some sensitivity to Soviet charges that power is slipping into the hands of anti-Communists.

This is a strong demand on Prague and undoubtedly will have a weighty influence during deliberations of the Czechoslovak party central committee which is to meet on 29 May. This plenum will consider the calling of an extraordinary party congress for the purpose of re-establishing the central committee--without conservatives.

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Yugoslav Ships Visit Soviet Port

A squadron from the Yugoslav Danube-Sava flotilla paid a visit to the Soviet port of Ismail from 15 to 18 May. The visit returns one paid by the Soviet Danube squadron of the Black Sea fleet on the Yugoslav port of Novi Sad last September and coincides with the presence of Soviet submarines in the Yugoslav port of Tivat.

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US Exhibit in Budapest a Hit, Despite Regime Obstacles

Over 120,000 people viewed the American exhibit at the Budapest Trade Fair on 18-19 May, while the regime continued to put administrative difficulties in the way of making the US portion a complete success.

At the last minute, just before the fair opening last week, the Hungarians denied a visa to a USIA representative

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who was to have participated in managing the US exhibit. Earlier, the Hungarians denied permission to the US to set up a management-marketing seminar in the US pavilion. As a result, the State Department is now questioning the utility of continuing our annual participation in the fair.

The Hungarian regime is very sensitive to official US attempts to reach the population but is somewhat more tolerant of privately organized exchanges.

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Selective Czechoslovak Jamming Continues

Czechoslovakia continues to jam RFE and Radio Madrid, and gets help from "friendly" foreign countries.

According to the Czechoslovak trade unions paper, Prace, there is international collaboration in jamming and each station is identified with call letters. On Petrin hill in Prague the RQ jamming station operates against RFE, but according to the article it is "not one of ours" because its call sign consists of two letters.

The jamming of RFE is considered legal by the Czechoslovak government because it claims that the Munich station operates on unregistered frequencies. The article implies that the jamming of Madrid is more or less a by-product of the effort against RFE.

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Austrian Students Arrested for Illegally Crossing Yugoslav Border

Two Carinthian students accidentally strayed a few meters inside Yugoslavia on 17 May while on a skiing trip in the Karawanken Mountains and were arrested at gun point. Later that evening the two Austrians were permitted to return home. In view of Yugoslavia's normally lax border regulations this incident may be in retaliation for Vienna's sharp protest over the 9 March violation of Austria's border by Yugoslav soldiers.

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